WENDELL POST

Vol. VII No. 2 June-July 1984 25¢

Frances Crowe Speaks in Wendell

Sunday, June 10, the Wendell Church sponsored its third Peace Pentecost Celebration. After two films about people of faith witnessing for peace "Gods of Metal" and "Be not Afraid," Frances Crowe led a lively discussion about what is happening in the area (Franklin and Hampshire Counties), her own recent peace action at Groton, in the Rhode Island House of Correction and in Nicaragua.

Between the films and discussion our spirits and voices were lifted with songs led by Shane Devine. A delicious pot luck supper was followed by Sufi dancing on the Common led by Susan DunLany. Keep watching local posting boards for more inspiring and exciting activities sponsored by the Wendell Church.

Highway Surveyor Approved

After interviewing three candidates the Wendell Selectboard chose Ronald C. Grogan as interim Highway Surveyor. Grogan will serve until the 1985 Town Election to fill the post vacated by the resignation for former Surveyor, Thomas Bardsley. The interviews held with members of the Highway Advisory Committee took place June 7th.

The Selectboard made its choice on the strength of Grogan's extensive mechanical skills and experience with construction and road building work. At the age of 17 he began a seven year stint with the late Glenn Ellis. Following a short period at the Erving Paper Mills, he worked fourteen plus years at Frye Construction Co. in Orange. That company recently went out of business. At his last position he was responsible for maintaining and repairing all of the equipment, as well as, operating a variety of machines.

Grogan told the Selectboard, "the priorities should be to patch the roads, and make the dirt roads passable. The other thing is to see that the machinery is ready for winter work." He will begin his duties June 11th. Along with Merle Powling, Grogan has been working at the Highway Dept. on a temporary basis since the beginning of May. Bradley Merchant was acting Road Boss, and is expected to continue with the Dept.

The appointment is good only until the 1985 election. At that time either the Surveyor will be elected or possible a Highway Commission will be elected. To vote a Commission will require rescinding action taken at a March 1984 Special Town Meeting which set 1986 as the year for the Highway Commission to be elected.

Joe Hartjens and Jay Blackbird of the Highway Advisory Committee took part in the interviews for the temporary Highway Surveyor. The Selectboard heard their recommendations before they deliberated on their choice. The choice was unanimous.

Mr. Grogan lives with his wife and four children on Mormon Hollow Road.

Bardsley Resigns - Highway Dept. in Shambles

Highway Surveyor Tom Bardsley's resignation in early May followed weeks of heated wrangling between him and the Board of Selectmen over money matters. Bardsley had, according to Selectman Ted Lewis, circumvented the purchase order system instituted by the Selectboard for all town departments, and Selectman Jim Slavas said Bardsley hadn't controlled labor costs sufficiently with the result that the Highway Department budget

Cont' p. 8

Wendell Pot luck Picnic

The Wendell Old Home Day Committee is pleased to announce that we are having a Pot Luck Lunch on Saturday, July 14, at one o'clock on the Town Common. We will provide the paper plates, etc. We ask that you mark your dish and bring a blanket or chair to sit on. There will be no access to the Town Hall, though we are renting a port-a-toilet. Bring your acoustic instruments and your friends. Rain date will be Sunday, July 15, same time. We ask that you leave your pets at home. Hope to see you there.

Route Two Fundraising

CONGRATULATIONS

More than 75 volunteers ranging in age from 5 to 70 collected, set up and sold nearly $3.000 of tag sale items and baked goods on Memorial Day weekend. Special thanks are extended to everyone who worked on the project and to all who donated items and food to make this fundraiser the success that it was. The money is being used to pay lawyers to represent Wendell Concerned Citizens and other groups fighting the proposed relocation of Rt. 2 into Wendell State Forest.

Thanks to Dick Carroll, owner of French King East for providing us with the space to hold this event and for his continued support in the fight.

The tag sale was organized by Pat Judice and the bake sale by Brenda Vincent. Anne Zak is the coordinator of fundraising for Wendell Concerned Citizens and the Rt 2 Environmental Coalition. She is who you should contact if you have ideas or energy to share.

There are events planned in the near future. In July watch for music by Loose Caboose at the Guiding Star Grange and the premier showing of the Bear Mountain Slide Show. There are rumblings about an outdoor concert later in the summer. A craft festival at Thornes Market is planned for late September or early October as is a gourmet dinner and show. Earth Crisis dances will be held throughout the year, at the Town Hall These events will be advertized by posters, on WRSI, and in the "coming events" columns in local newspapers. Hope to see you there.

Ann Zak

NEW TOWN DIRECTORY INSIDE

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Logo for new Coalition of environmental groups against South bank Rt. 2 alignment.

WENDELL POST

Vol. VII No. 2

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Route 2 Work Earns Award

At its recent Annual Meeting, the Connecticut River Watershed Council presented its annual Conservation Award for 1984 to a group known as Wendell Concerned Citizens, which has worked to raise public consciousness about the potential environmental damage caused by a proposed highway relocation along Route 2 in Erving.

According to Seth Kellogg, who presented the award on behalf of the Council, Wendell Concerned Citizens has provided public information through a series of hikes, publications, negotiations with the Massachusetts Department of Public Works and, as a last resort, legal action in order to protect the integrity of the forest and the river. The Massachusetts Department of Public Works' proposal would require making deep cuts in the north slope of Bear Mountain, and would cut through five miles of virtually undeveloped riverbank that borders along the Millers River in Wendell State Forest.

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EXCATING CONTRACTOR
240 Wendell Rd, Millers Falls 659-3807

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- GRADING
- ROADWAYS
- TRENCHWAYS
- SNOW REMOVAL
- FILL, LOAM, GRAVEL

TANKS · LEECH FIELDS INSTALLED

Births

Mark Puchalski was born on March 8, 1984 in Northampton. Congratulations to Ronald and Deborah Puchalski of Farley Road.

Christina Lynne Kopec was born on March 12, 1984 in Northampton. Congratulations to Paul and Valerie Kopec of Locks Village Road.

Kelly Joy Simon was born on March 15, 1984 in Greenfield. Congratulations to Douglas Simon and Lisa Aubin of Farley Rd.

Jesse Cooper Browning was born on April 28, 1984 in Northampton. Congratulations to Mark and Sheila Browning of Jennison Road.

Darcy Rose Flynn was born on May 21, 1984 in Northampton. Congratulations to Harold and Joyce Flynn of Montague Road.

Death

Warren S. Oliver, Sr., of Main St., died March 30, 1984 in Athol at the age of 80.

Marriages

M. Perry Howarth III to Regina Salazar on June 2, 1984 in Wendell.

David Boatwright to Patricia Waters on April 14, 1984 in Orange.

Fire Log

4-12-84 grass fire at Cully and Swain residence on West Road.

Police Log

5-14-84 assisted Montague Police in motor vehicle chase on Locke Hill.

5-31-84 money stolen from several paper tubes in Wendell Center.

Land Transfers

4-17-84 Allyn W. Coombs, Inc. to Jimi Two Feathers and Phyllis Brooks, 11.7 acres on Plain Road.

Wendell Church News

Wendell Church holds services every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Pastor James Ewen ministers on first and third Sundays, serving Communion on the first Sunday. Programs on alternate Sundays are announced on the Church notice board.

The Church will sponsor a Vacation Bible School this summer. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon from August 6-10. Children from 3 years through sixth grade will be welcome. Registration is due by June 30. The theme will be the Rainbow Connection.

On Old Home Day, August 11, the Church will sponsor its usual fruit and fruit juice stand. In addition, the Pairing Project plans to mail a package to our sister town, Aznakayevo, USSR.

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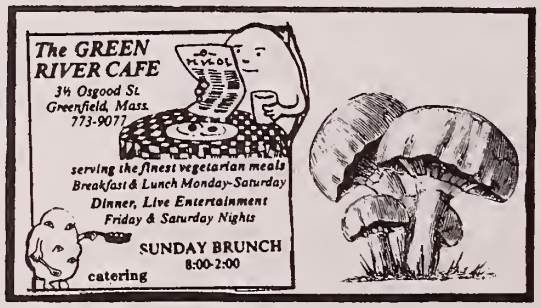

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Wendell Election Results

Selectman 3 years		
Michael Idoine	153	
Stephen H. Lelito	55	
	6	blank
Town Clerk 3 years		
Anna M.C.B. Hartjens	182	
	32	blank
Treasurer 3 years		
Florence Blackbird	184	
	30	blank
Tax Collector 3 years		
Judith A. Wilder	191	
	22	blank
Assessor 3 years		
George E. Butler	171	
	42	blank
School Committee 3 years		
Dean Bennet	71	
Linda Facey	write-in 97	
	45	blank
Library Trustee 3 years		
Marion V. Herrick	189	
	25	blank
Library Trustee 3 years		
Sylvia Wetherby	write-in 6	
Planning Board 5 years		
Amy Hubert	156	
	48	blank
Board of Health 3 years		
David Wilder	170	
	41	blank
Tree Warden 1 year		
Daniel E. Bacigalupo	163	
	53	Blank
Cemetery Commissioner 3 years		
Minnie E. Bacigalupo	164	
	48	blank
Moderator 1 year		
Kathy Ann Becker	187	
	26	blank

Farewell to the Shortt Family

A fond farewell to the Shortt family who is moving up to Burlington, VT. The Shortts have lived in New Salem for over ten years and have put much time and energy into the community. For several years Richard ran the "Our Daily Bread Food Coop" where several of us shopped and Joyce directed the Orange Day Care Program. Joyce has been a member of the New Salem Finance Committee for the past three years and last year Richard became a member of the town's Selectboard. The Shortts have many friends in New Salem and Wendell and will be missed. To Ellen, Sara, Joyce and Richard - lots of luck and all best wishes from your friends back home.

War Tax Resistance

Most of us know the devastating and irreversible effects of nuclear weapons. Many in this country are also ashamed of our government's support of repressive regimes and death-squad tactics in Central America. Our country was based on power of the citizens through representation, and the ability to change what is not right in our government. Tax-resistance is a powerful way to protest our leaders' actions by withholding tax monies that would be spent on war.

I feel a pressure to "save our world" from several pending menaces. The real threat of nuclear holocaust is one which needs immediate and drastic action to stop. All over the globe people are standing up, walking, saying loudly NO to nuclear weapons. War toys have become much too dangerous to use in the world's games of power, or to be even here for possible vandalism or accident. I say NO in several ways: support of Traprock Peace Center in Deerfield, marches for peace, letters to our government officials, and living a non-violent, simple life. But I feel my strongest statement, because "money talks" is to withhold tax money that pays for these weapons.

Yes, there may be severe consequences. Jail is a possibility, though a small one. The IRS can confiscate money directly from a citizen's bank account. Personal property can be seized or a lien put on it. My concern for my personal possessions when faced with the consequences of nuclear war or accident, doesn't amount to a hill of contaminated beans.

To those who accuse me of lack of patriotism I reply that if patriotism is paying taxes and saying "my country, right or wrong," then the Germans in the 40's who were silent when the shadows of Nazi gas ovens loomed above them were patriotic. And I say they were as guilty by their silence as we are by continuing to pay for the nuclear menace. My strong disavowal of our government's policies may be seen as subversive or anti-American. I can hear echoes of the old Vietnam-days phrase "America -- love it or leave it." But I feel the opposite. That if we do love it, we as good citizens must live up to, amend and change those things in our government which are wrong or misguided. After all, it is we who are the government.

We have grown to depend on authority--our officials--to do our dirty work for us: To right the wrongs of science's flubs (nuclear power); to get us out global messes, and otherwise tie our shoes for us. If we deligate this power and then turn blind eyes on how it is used we are not patriots. We do have power and it is in our actions and our voices used, not hidden in powerless livingroom banter and dispairing hopelessness. What would happen to the power of government if tomorrow all the people of the world refused to pay, said NO, stopped work at factories pumping out warheads and the like? Pretty unrealistic possibility, you say. But does that make it morally wrong to stop trying to defuse the bomb in the best ways that we know how?

Jonathan von Ranson, Dale Kowacki and I practice tax resistance and would be glad to advise others. We are members of the Pioneer Valley War-Tax Resistors, and we support the World Peace Tax Fund pending federal legislation, an alternative to military taxation of conscientious objectors.

WAYS TO SAY NO

Don't pay the telephone tax. This was created in 1914 and revived in 1966 to help pay for the Vietnam War. In January 1983 this tax was again raised to 3%. Simply deduct the tax from your payment and include an explanation. The phone company recognizes this form of tax-resistance and will not shut off your phone.

Income Tax: 1. Earn less than a taxable income. Living simply is a way to protest also the rape of the world's natural resources. 2. File a blank 1040 form or do not file at all. 3. Fill out the form correctly, but refuse to pay that portion which goes to the military (45% for current expenses, 61% if past wars are included.) 4. Fill out form, but refuse to pay anything. Realistically, even if you pay just the portion supposed to go for social security, schools, roads, etc., tax money is pooled and divided and a percentage of your taxes will still go to the military. Regardless of the method used, write the IRS, the President, your representatives and let them know your protest and the reasons for it.

Susan DunLany

On Being Healthy

Everybody complains about the weather but nobody ever does anything about it... I believe that Mark Twain coined that phrase, anyway we've had plenty to complain about these last few weeks. I read somewhere that, due to heavy rains, there was an increase in pollen and not only would regular hayfever sufferers be sneezing "wickedly", but also people who had never experienced symptoms could now experience discomfort.

I've talked to some people about how the weather in general affects me from time to time, for instance the wind. On days when there was a heavy wind, I felt an annoyance and walked around all grumpy, shaking my fist at the invisible antagonist. As I begin to trust my instincts, I decided, recently, that there must some change in pressure which occurs at these windy times which was having a negative effect on me. Just the other day I found a theory, if not an answer to my question. Apparently in windy, especially pre-storm times, there is an increase of ions in the air especially positive ions. (ions are clusters of molecules which carry a positive or negative charge) People are affected differently by positive and negative ions but most people react in a negative manner to positive ions, and positively to negative ions. This conclusion was formed by the observation of such winds as the Mistral in France, the Santa Ana in California, and the "foehn" in Switzerland. Mistral, hot and dry type winds have been observed to coincide with a rise in incidence of traffic accidents, mental hospital admissions, marital fights, drunkenness and violent crimes. In laboratory tests at N.Y.U., volunteers were bombarded with positive ions and some people seemed to become tense and irritable with slowed reactions, while others seemed to have no ill effects.

Negative ions, on the other hand, apparantly can help prevent respiratory infections, by killing bacteria and improving the functioning of tissue in the windpipe. They seem also to intensify whatever mood a person may be experiencing, and since a storm carries an increase in negative as well as positive ions this could explain why some people become energized as a storm approaches. (Air ionizers are available in stores but good ones cost money...$200 to $250)

Another mood affector is the absence or presence of light. In the winter or on dark stormy days, the absence of light affects the production of a hormone called melatonin, which is released in the brain in greater quantities in the dark or dim light than in bright or daylight. This hormone seems to affect seasonal rhythms such as hibernation in animals, and definitely affects the activities of the ovaries, slowing their functions, in dim, high melatonin periods. In other words the menstrual cycle is almost assuredly affected by prolonged darkness or dim light. The effect of increased melatonin could be counteracted by using brighter and more lights. If one's mood has been negatively affected by dimmness or darkness, this could provide a lift, as well as making an attempt to catch the daylight, or be outdoors during early morning or late afternoon times when, scientists believe, people are more sensitive to light.

The ions are maybe a little more difficult to control but, for me, just the knowledge that they are affecting me helps me deal with the situation in a more intelligent manner. Here's hoping that your ions will be negative and that your health will be positive! Till next time...

Maryvonne Kutsch

New England Fat-Tire Race

Ross Bicycles Inc., of New York has recently announced a blow-out 2 day fat-tire, off-road bicycle race slated for the Wendell State Forest for Aug. 18th and 19th and they'd like to make it an enormous event.

Not surprizingly, Ross manufactures the fat-tire or mountain bike - a baby born in the 70's, is a hybrid of the 1950 Dennis the Menace bike with 18 gears. Actually, within the dozen years of its conception, the mountain bike has become quite sophisticated. The old fat frame was redesigned. It became longer, with thicker tubes and is higher off the ground. The brakes and shift lever were moved onto the especially designed motorcycle type handlebars. To the seat post, a quick release lever was added, to down the seat for descending and up it for climbing. Include the 18 gears and fat-tires. Voila!

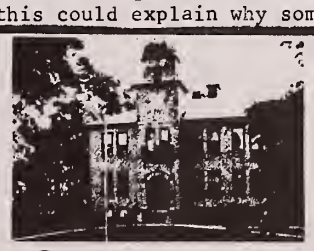
Give Americans a new toy and they'll invent a new sport. The 2 day race will involve four events: an uphill race, a downhill race, an off-road road race, and observed trials race. To qualify for the top money, riders must compete in all four events.

The Ross promotion is slick, and they have done lots of homework in preparing for the event. The $15 application form comes equiped with information on lodging, camping and restaurants in the area. Their press release indicates "a better spot to cherish the world of fat-tires cannot be found." They are referring to Wendell.

So fat-tire fans - shine up your relic and glide. If you need information, contact Peloton of Amherst, a co-sponsor. They are doing all the local footwork as well as organizing volunteers - free T shirt anyone? - to marshall the events. Vendors will be on hand to provide food. Perhaps those tired bodies will need some oils and a massage. Vendors should also contact Peloton.

Gina Caputo

A New, Independent, Alternative High School



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Jim Slavas (413) 367-2175
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CLERK FOR SELECTBOARD
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Margaret Stebbins 4-3970
Pliny Stebbins 4-3970
Judith Wilder 4-2773
Pam Lavoie 4-6400
Laurel Wilson (Chairperson) 4-2232
Judy Shaw 4-6173
Sylvia Wetherby 4-6146

LIBRARIAN
Lois Carey 4-6692

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Tues. 2-4 pm	Tues. 2-4 pm
Wed. 12-4 pm, 6-8 pm	6-8 pm
	Wed. 12-4 pm
Sat. 10 am - Noon	6-8 pm

WENDELL OLD HOME DAY CONTACTS
Lisa Aubin 4-7636
Anne Diemand 4-6111

WENDELL POST OFFICE
Wendell Center 4-7090
Mon.-Fri. 7-11:30 am, 2:30 pm-6 pm
Sat. 8 am - Noon
Wendell Depot 4-6682
Mon.-Fri. 7-11 am, 3:30 pm-6 pm
Sat. 7-11 am

WENDELL POST
Kathy Becker 4-2086
Anne Diemand 4-6111
Donna Huntington 4-7645
Brenda Vincent 4-3981
Jane Schoenberg 4-7532

WENDELL STATE FOREST 659-3797

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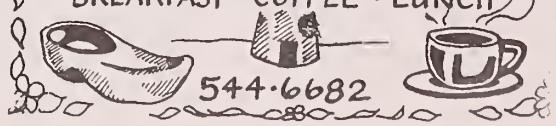

544-6682

New Salem's Old Home Day's Schedule Saturday, July 21

NEW SALEM OLD HOME DAY
July 21, 1984

10:00 am	REGISTRATION FOR FOOTRACE
10:30 am	EXHIBITS OPEN
10:30 am	BEN STACEY FAMILY FOOTRACE
11:00 am	LUMBERMEN'S CONTEST
11:45 am	PARADE
12:30 pm	JOSHUA JAY, THE WAFFLE CLOWN
12:30 pm	AUCTION - miscellaneous materials from Town Depts.
1:30 pm	CHILDREN'S CONTESTS
2:00 pm	EGG THROWING CONTEST
2:00 pm	SOFTBALL GAME
2:30 pm	MIME AND MAGIC
4:30 pm	ACADEMY ALUMNI MEETING
5:30 pm	CHICKEN BARBECUE/TOWN PICNIC Adults-$5.50, Children-$2.75
7:30 pm	50 YEARS OF MUSIC WITH DANCING Adults-$1.00, Children-50¢

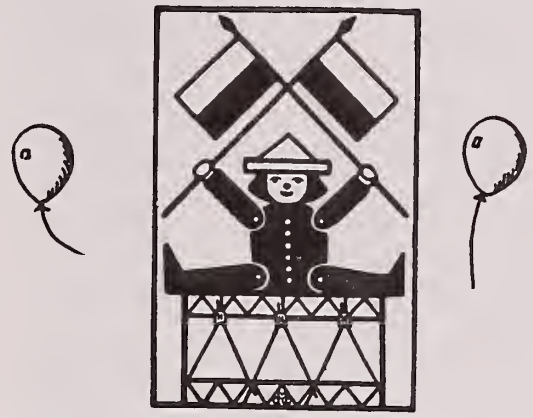
Ongoing activities: Art and Craft Exhibits, Wagon Rides, Children's Rides, Bake and Tag Sales, Volleyball, etc.

A very important day for the town as well as its folks is fast approaching. Old Home Day will take place on Saturday, July 21, this summer. Plans for this day have been going on since February, and we're sure to have some exciting activities planned for you to take part in. Old Home Day last year was well attended and enjoyed by everyone and this year boasts some special additions and changes that should entice you away from your gardens and up to the Town Common to spend a day with neighbors and friends.

The Footrace, always a popular event, will traditionally kick off the day at 10:30 am. Following close behind will be the Lumbermen's Contest. The Town Parade, which seems to grow longer every year, plans to have the children take more of a significant part in it this year. Other children's activities planned are: Tug of War, trike races and pie-eating contests. A special train ride and Moonwalk will also be available. Joshua Jay, the Waffle Clown will also be on hand to sing to the crowd and maybe paint a face or two.

Afternoon entertainment takes the form of mime and magic. Jody Scalise, a well known and gifted mime will be sure to delight you with his remarkable performance, and Ed Popielarczyk will hold you spellbound with his magical illusions.

After a chicken barbecue, which promises to be as delicious as last year's, the evening will unfold into "Fifty Years of Music With Dancing." The Lynne Meryl Quintet with New Salem's Nat Needle will span the musical decades from the lindy on up. So bring your dancing shoes. For those not wanting to dance - there'll be plenty of wonderful music to listen to, and some contests intertwined throughout the



Whether it's the Art and Craft Exhibits, the games, contests, Town Auction, baked goods, or Special entertainment that draws you up to the hill on July 21 - we hope to see all of you at some point. With all the events planned and the efforts of so many people, the day should prove to be a special one.

Jane Schoenberg

Wendell Golden Agers
want to welcome you to OLD HOME DAY
$1.00 for one of our bags to FILL with remnants of your choice
arts & crafts - raffle - bake sale and more

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Wendell's Old Home Day's Schedule Saturday, Aug. 11

WENDELL OLD HOME DAY
August 11, 1984

9:00 am	ROAD RACE
9:30 am	FACE PAINTING
10:00 am	PARADE
10:30 am	OBSTACLE COURSE
11:30 am	MONEY HUNT
Noon	Joshua J. doing sing-alongs and games
1 to 5 pm	MUSIC AMATEUR TALENT SHOW
5:00 pm	CHICKEN B-B-Q

Music this year will include The Outer-space Band, elements of Loose Caboose and The Shades and other local talent.

Activities and events happening are games for children and adults, raffles, tag and remnant sales, crafts, a Moonwalk, train and trolley car rides, demonstrations and much more. Please come and help make Old Home Day special.

* * * * * * * *

We are looking for people to demonstrate or exhibit their crafts and hobbies. We have several people who have already agreed to participate this year. If you have anything you do or a collection you want to share, please call Anne at 4-6111 or bring it to Old Home Day.

* * * * * * * *

We'd like to encourage local talent, children through senior citizens, to fill in between sets on Old Home Day afternoon. This will be a low key amateur happening, a chance to perform before your neighbors and to add to the down home atmosphere of Old Home Day. We're looking for jugglers, singers, poets, musicians and magicians, dancers, comedians, airbands,a leader for charades. Call Lisa (544-7636) with your ideas and for more information.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

"The Way We Were:" A photographic look at Wendell residents in their youth.

Remember that old picture of you that always brings a chuckle? The Wendell Old Home Day Committee is organizing a collection of early photos of Wendell people, young and old. The photos will be exhibited under glass in the Town Hall during the Old Home Day celebration.

If you have pictures that you would like to loan, please write your name and year of the photo on the back and take them to the Wendell Free Library. There is a box there specifically for your pictures.

Photos may be picked up after the festivities on August 11.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

The Wendell Old Home Day is having a raffle to reimburse the town for putting up an electric box on the Town Common. First prize is $100, Second prize is $50, and Third prize is $25. If anyone is interested in either buying or helping us sell tickets, please contact Anne at 544-6111.

Don Pugh

Old gravestone at Mormon Hollow Cemetery

Uncovering Mormon History

A Mormon colony came into being and fought persecution from 1833-1844 in the Mormon Hollow area of Wendell, according to the research of Harvey Matusow, a former Wendell resident who now lives in Orange. Matusow - also known as Job - is hoping to determine if an abandoned cemetery off Farley Road in that section was used for burials by the Mormons before they left for the West and their New World, in a migration soberingly reminiscent of the Pilgrims' flight from persecution in England.

His research has turned up reports that one of the Wendellites who harrassed the Mormon converts was literally a giant of a man.

Matusow was cemetery commissioner in town in 1975-76. He and his wife, Emily, lived in Wendell Depot. After a garage fire at their home, they sold their property and went west. They returned to this region last year.

Himself an active Mormon, Matusow recently obtained records from the church's headquarters in Salt Lake City that describe the beginnings of the Mormon church in Wendell and list some of the first baptisms.

The first was Theresa Merchant of the same Merchant family that still lives in town on Mormon Hollow Road. (Bradley Merchant is acting Road Boss; Mande Merchant, his mother, recently died). Theresa was baptized Nov. 18, 1833. Two Sundays later, David Nelson, Jonathan Crosby, Mary Harris, Lucy Harris and Sarah Harris were baptized into the Mormon Church. Most were probably adults: the new church was seeking its membership base of adults.

Brigham Young, the church's founder, was then in Ohio, according to Matusow. Young dispatched two of his disciples - Isaac Morley of Montague and a Mormon bishop named Partridge - to come back East to proselytize. (Morley was later to become famous as the founder of the second Mormon temple, at Mantai, Utah). Morley's journal records:

"This afternoon we fell into company with a man from the town of Wendell in Franklin County. He appeared sincere and very anxious to hear us preach and desirous of us to come through that town, which we promised to do. We stopped for the night at an inn, and on the morning of (Oct.) the 26th (1833) we proceeded to the town of Wendell where we found the man we had met on the road and tarried, to hold a meeting on the following Sunday night, Oct. 27. We had a full house, and the congregation was very attentive. We remained in the region for about four weeks. The Lord blessed us in our administration, though we met considerable opposition, expecially from the Presbyterians, whose priest took the lead in raising disputes and dissentions upon the new subjects. We baptized six while in this and ordained one to the office of priest and left Wendell in December."

Following the departure of Morley and Partridge, additional difficulties arose for the converts. "A Wendell man and state representative named Luther Stone (whose home was located near Schoolhouse Road) was very hostile to the Mormons," Matusow said. "He was said to be about 6'10" or seven feet tall. The story is that Luther Stone led a party that put a flat stone over the chimney of the home where they were holding meetings, probably the Merchant house." Matusow also said he believes houses were burned.

The Mormons had some distinctly radical ideas about God and man, and these prompted energetic condemnation. "The Mormon church has a lay clergy," Matusow said, "with rotation of the administrators called 'bishops'. Everything is voted on in the congregation. Mormonism is the only major faith that says you as an individual can achieve Godhood: that there's a God within you, Christ is your spiritual brother.

"This was very revolutionary, especially to the Presbyterians, which come from the Calvinist movement that says we're all damned and only an elect few - regardless of any good works - get to be redeemed. "Mormons also do not believe Adam and Eve taught them to use their free will...which, as a god-in training, so to speak, you have to use until such time as you reach your full potential.

"We have records in Wendell," said Matusow, "that if you got married and your wife had a baby before the 7th month, you were called up before the congregation and publically damned for fornicating."

The Mormons' trouble "had nothing to do with plural marriage, which became a factor later, after the colony left Wendell," Matusow said. It was more threatening that non-property owners shouldn't have to stand in the back of the church at services, but were actually entitled to a pew.

The possible Mormon cemetery, located off Farley Road to the northwest of Stone Cutoff Road, is now deep woods. Matusow estimates there are 50 gravesites, the earliest dating perhaps from the 1790's - forty years before the Mormon colony got a toehold. The inscriptions on all but two of the markers are illegible; their sandstone surfaces have eroded.

Although none of the gravesites are known to be Mormon, Matusow says this is the logical spot where any deceased members of the Mormon Community would have been buried. ..."and over ten years' time there certainly were some." This, he theorizes, explains the town's failure to maintain the cemetery as it did others. "When (the Mormons) left, I believe the town said we're not going to put any money into supporting these people's cemetery."

Job, as he likes to be called, says he was introduced to the church 30 years ago by Jack Anderson, the syndicated investigative newspaper columnist, when the two worked together on a project in Washington. He differed with the church over the issue of blacks in the priesthood. "I promised myself that when blacks could hold the priesthood, I would once again become an active member.

"In 1977, after leaving Wendell, I had this vision one day while driving through a little desert town in Arizona with my wife. I had this flash of light, and I saw a sign that said House for Rent and I said, 'Emily, we're going to move into that house.'

"I stopped the car; I didn't even know where I was. I turned around and paid the rent. Later I discovered it was the oldest Mormon community in Southern Arizona, and that a few weeks previous the church had announced that blacks could hold the priesthood. I've been active in the church ever since that day."

Both a religious and a regional pride seem to motivate Matusow's research. "I believe the roots of Mormonism are found in this area of New England," he said. "Brigham Young was born 25 miles from here on the Vermont side of the line. A lot of people look at the Mormon Church as a foreign thing, but it is native to New England. Its members simply couldn't stand the prejudice and persecution, and fled. It's time some of us in Wendell, New Salem and Leverett (where there were also colonies) recognize that this is a part of the history of the area, that the Mormon church, now 6½ million members and flourishing in wealth, was born here and could have stayed here had these communities allowed it. "Maybe," he added, "after 140 years it's time to bury the axe, and maybe restore the cemetery."

Jonathan von Ranson

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Wendell Music Scene

The summer of '84 will be an interesting and productive one for the area's many musicians. Of course, any concert is only as good as its audience, so we all should try to lend support to events that interest us. People who are unfamiliar with "the music business" often complain that ticket prices are too high, but in most cases, the overhead justifies the price, and the musicians actually playing the music are getting paid only a fraction of that price. In essence, you get what you pay for, so if you have just got to see this summer's Jackson tour, you can expect to pay alot of money for even a back of the hall seat and this may discourage you from paying a lesser price to check out several localized performers. Too bad, because if you look hard enough, you'll find there's usually "good rockin' tonight" somewhere about.

For instance, on Friday, July 13th, you can catch the "original" Outerspace Band with Cheif Kubicek on the traps at the good ole' Warwick Inn. The Inn has been a special kind of club over the years, where people of many ages boogie freely in the cool country atmosphere of Warwick Center on Rte. 78. The Spacemen never fail to light up the night at this place and you can bet their show will be more "rocking" than a years worth of MTV clips. Planning on being in Maine in July? Space tours the state from the 14th to the 29th, so keep your eyes peeled for the dates in Vinly Haven, Portland Garden, Belfast and Belgrade. The group will also do a special accoustic set on the common at Wendell Old Home Day on August 11th, and hopefully will be playing at a not as yet finalized concert with Loose Caboose and others on Sunday, August 12th, in benefit for the Wendell Concerned Citizens. Meanwhile, Klondike Sound will be busy as usual, covering sound production for many festivals and concerts, including Pete Seeger's, Hudson River Revival and the Kool Jazz Festival in New York City.

New Salem's Steven Schoenberg has a busy summer planned with concerts June 11th at Greenfield High School and later on in the summer at Bennington College in Vermont. Also in the works are a second LP of improvisational music to follow up the highly acclaimed "Pianoworks" and a record of music specifically geared towards kids which may feature musically inclined children from this area.

Another successful pianist/composer from this area, Debbie Fier, will be appearing at the Michigan Women's Music Festival, which features artists from all over the country, as well as planning a fall concert tour which will take her to the Midwest again and to the South. She too is in the planning stages of a follow up to her first LP, "In Your Hands".

Loose Caboose spent a week recording tracks at Wendell Studio in May, their first recorded ventures with new drummer Mwoli. Put on tape were instrumental tracks for four new Caboose original songs (by Ras Bullock, Michael Miller and Mwoli) and two compositions by Jan Morris of the Shades, the women's vocal group which includes Judith Ann Marie. Caboose will be playing "live" at the Wok/Showcase Club on Rte 9, in Hadley one weekend a month this summer. Those daes are June 15th and 16th, July 20th and 21st, and August 24th and 25th. Loose Caboose will also appear at an outdoor Reggae Festival, July 1st at Bucksteep Manor on Rte 8 in Beckett, Mass. with Boston's One People and Connecticuts Cool Runnings.

Wailin Dave Robinson brings his band, a loose coalition known as the Blue Dogs to Sheehans in Northampton on June 16th and to Ransom Knowlings on Elliot Street in Brattleboro on June 28th,29th and 30th. The band features Jim Roberts, of Valley Advocate and Rahar's Rythym Rockers fare, and either Scott Richardson, also of the Rythym Rockers or Doug Huntington on drums. The lead guitar work is usually handled by John Moses or Wildcat O'Halloran.

Shane Devine will be making her first appearance at the Iron Horse in Northampton on June 12th where the Shades appeared with Mimi Farina on May 27th.

So you see there's lots of good music out there - catch it when you can!

David Boatwright

Highway Shambles cont.

was exhausted twice before the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

Bardsley had accused the selectboard of interfering with his autonomy as an elected official.

Following the resignation, the Selectboard and members of the Highway Department Advisory Committee discovered a dismaying additional problem: equipment that wasn't working because of "lack of routine maintenance," according to Lewis, and missing tools. All three of the town's dump trucks were down, two of them - a 1976 Ford and a 1972 International - for good. "It was just terrible," said Lewis. "I didn't realize anything could be so bad."

The result of these headaches was several months of spotty road maintenance and a month of virtually none. For the past few weeks, Bradley Merchant, who has been appointed Acting Road Boss, with the help of Merle Powing and Ron Grogan have been carryout what repairs they could with the use of the only functioning equipment: the pickup truck,loader, grader and backhoe. Besides the $6,000 put into the highway maintenance budget by a special town meeting last wintet, the Finance Committee has found additional sums to transfer to the penniless road account to keep the three employees on the job.

"These three men have done a great job," said Lewis. "What they did during the big rain (May 28-31, when it poured over six inches) saved the town a lot of money." He said others have been helpful too, and that townspeople have been good-spirited during the crisis.

Work during the past several weeks has been confined mostly to equipment repairs and work on ditches and culverts. The town could hire gravel trucked in and spread, but Lewis said it's more economical to stockpile it at the town garage and spread it with the smaller town truck once it's running.

To fix the two worst trucks "would cost more than they're worth," said Merchant. The third truck was idle for lack of a wheel backing plate, which might have been located at last at a Connecticut junkyard. Someone would be making the trip down to check it against the broken part and - everyone hoped bring it back.

Even with the one truck running, "It'll be hard to keep up with the road work," said Merchant, who has spent 16 years on the highway crew. "We'll have to get another one by winter."

Highway department problems have plagued the town for five or six years. Lewis attributes it in part to the state's discontinuation of the former position of state engineer, "one for every four or five towns," Lewis said. "He used to tell the highway surveyor, 'Fix this drainage here,' and 'Get some grading done on that road'. Since then the Highway Surveyor hasn't been accountable to anybody but the voters, and once they find out a problem, it's usually too late."

Lewis said similar problems developed with the previous Highway Surveyors, Joe Williams and David Bardsley. "It's not just a problem with the men, it's the system," he said.

A year ago the town began to move away from the elected, unpaid Surveyor system (the Highway Surveyor traditionally appointed himself Road Boss) to a system in which a board of three Highway Commissioners (also unpaid) oversee the highway work. "We don't need a boss; the road crew could be a good job for three people," said Lewis. "I hope that's what's developing. Theoretically, the Highway Commissioners could name one of themselves Road Boss,under the present bylaw but I hope they don't. Everybody's got to work; you don't need a boss."

A Temporary Road Boss will shortly be appointed by the Selectboard and the Highway Advisory Committee, which advertised for applicants and interviewed them June 5. That person will serve until the new Board of Highway Commissioners takes effect, now scheduled to be in May of 1986, but which the selectboard will request the town to move to May, 1985 at the next special town meeting.

The efficiency of the town's biggest department by far rides on the smoothness and success of the change.

Jonathan von Ranson

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Wendell Annual Town Meeting

In one evening's work approximately sixty town meeting members dispensed with a 23 article business meeting warrant. When the May 9th voting was through around 10:30 pm, a sum of $522,965 had been appropriated to cover the budget for the upcoming year. Additionally, a dozen other articles were acted on.

The unified budget article which covers general government, protection of persons and property, highways, health and sanitation, schools, insurance and other items was amended to a total of $434,662. This total is $19,723 less than last year, largely because of increased state aid throughout the school system.

Other categories increased from 1 or 2% to nearly 30% for the insurance section. The highway budget was increased nearly 10%, although it was pointed out that other funds may be needed as the reorganized highway dept. determines its needs more clearly.

In other business, Chp.90 construction aid monies were accepted ($9,021). $30,282 was appropriated for the final bond payment on the Swift River School. The only other large item to be approved was $20,000 for the Stabilization Fund. The Finance Committee recommended an extra $10,000 this year to maintain the levy limit at its present rate.

The Reserve Fund, which covers unanticipated expenses got $5,000 for FY 84-85 and the library received $1,250 in state aid. The Fire Dept. will have $1,000 extra to buy turn-out coats for its volunteers. A sum of $3,000 was appropriated to cover bills of prior years, largely late bills to the Highway Department. Wendell's share of $4,750 for our administrative assistant was approved.

The last money item to be approved was $4,000 to defend the towns herbicide application bylaw. While some members argued that the liability of the suit was dangerous to the town, most voters worried about unchecked pollution voted to see the pending lawsuit through. The motion carried with one opposing vote. A motion to raise $18,000 for a used dump truck was passed over because the need had not been explained to the Finance Committee.

Motions to replace town counsel and limit selectmen's terms were defeated, the latter largely turning into a testimonial for experienced town officials. Earlier a motion to begin the procedure for enacting a bylaw to allow re-call votes of town officials was approved unanimously. A resolution that the Planning Board present zoning bylaws at Special Town Meeting was approved unanimously.

Three articles dealing with world issues were passed by the voters. One was a call to set a cap on sulfur dioxide emissions which are responsible for acid rain. Secondly, a unanimous vote declared Wendell a nuclear free zone. Lastly, a motion carried to accept Azmakayevo, Tartar Republic, USSR as its sister community.

Michael Idoine

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Russell Johnson lends Support to Pairing Project

"The best way to destroy an enemy is make of him a friend." Russell Johnson, a long-time resident of Petersham, has been doing more than quoting these words during his talks in the area; he has lived them for the 30 years that he served as New England Program Director of the American Friends Service Committee.

Johnson, recently retired from the AFSC, has been speaking locally about his long-time experience as "an unofficial American diplomat,: lending his time and energy to local communities, such as New Salem and Wendell. These towns, along with a number of others in Western Massachusetts, are taking part in the Pairing Project. This project pairs up towns and cities in the USA with similar towns and cities in the USSR in the hope of opening up a dialogue and better understanding between citizens of the two countries.

Johnson's support of such an undertaking is a natural outgrowth of his intersts and activities with the American Friends. With his wife, Irene, he has spent a great deal of time during the past 30 years travelling and making friends for the U.S. In the sixties, as a function of his job as Director of the Quaker International Conference program, Johnson set up a number of meetings for young men and women of third world countries to give them an opportunity to speak with people from different areas. Many of these people now hold positions of influence in their countries, and in a trip last fall to the Phillipines, Indonesia, and Thailand, Johnson met some of the young people who had taken part in the conferences He was pleased and surprised by the genuine friendship and hospitality afforded to him by them. He feels that "the more we get together people of different backgrounds, the easier it will be to see the world as members of one family."

Johnson's work has taken him all over the world - to Cuba, China, and parts of Africa, as well as southeast Asia and the Phillipines. Regardless of his official mission in all these trips, he has acted as an observer trying to see events as they were happening and reporting back to the American people.

Johnson's retirement from the Friends Service Committee, however, does not mean his retirement from his mission to make the world a smaller, friendlier place to live in. In 1980 he visited five Soviet cities under the sponsorship of a group called Promoting Enduring Peace in Connecticut. This summer for the second time he will be taking part in the Volga Peace Cruise, which will take a group of American citizens, which also includes Amherst residents, George and Ann Levinger, on a boat trip up the Volga. Included in the tour will be stops along the way and a series of discussions with Soviet citizens who will travel with the tour and who will join them. Like all tours, impressions may be hurried and in some ways superficial, but Johnson feels that such face-to-face meetings can do a great deal to break down barriers of suspicion and open up genuine dialogue.

Because of this conviction, Johnson has lent his support to local towns in their attempt to build interest for the Pairing Project. Both Wendell and New Salem have sister towns and are preparing community portraits to send to the Soviet Union. Like Russell Johnson, citizens of Wendell and New Salem are trying to destroy their enemies by making them their friends.

MaryAnn Devito Palmieri

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New Salem Annual Town Meeting

The New Salem Annual Town Meeting on June 4 was split to two nights after a standing room only audience turned out for an unusual first night session that saw one article take up almost half the meeting, only to be referred to committee.

The article in question was a revision of the town's zoning by-laws concerning signs. The existing bylaw restricted off-premise signs to 24 square feet and required a permit from the Mass. Outdoor Advertising Board. The existing bylaw also prohibited illuminated and neon signs.

The revision had been formulated by the Sign Bylaw Committee, which had been appointed following the December Special Town Meeting. The revision would have allowed three forty square foot signs for businesses located off Routes 202 and 122, and two signs for businesses located on those highways, as well as illuminated signs, and would have dispensed with permitting requirements.

The article was argued point by point, with numerous amendments proposed. One, establishing a fine for violating state sign requirements, was defeated, while another reducing the sign size to the existing bylaw's standard of 24 square feet was approved. The debate ended soon afterwards with a motion from the Sign Bylaw Committee moving the issue to a committee made of the Planning Board and the Sign Bylaw Committee.

In a lighter moment, there was debate over mathematics. One math-minded resident argued that one square foot meant a total of 12 inches, rather than one foot by one foot, and requested that the wording be changed to one foot square. A geometry teacher concurred, but the moderator disagreed and debate was ended.

Appropriations approved during the first night were: $1600 for a copying machine; $3,050 for maintenance of Town Hall, an increase of $450 over the original request; $61,668 for Swift River School; and $102,897 for Mahar Regional High School. $8,927 was also appropriated for a new police cruiser, along with $19,500 for a 1000 gallon tank and a pump for the fire department. A Recreation Commission was established and $450 set aside for transportation to a summer swimming classes for children.

Second night attendance was only 40, down more than two thirds from the night before. Twelve articles were rapidly dealt with, including approval of funds for completion of construction on Wendell Road. $2000 was appropriated for a sewage disposal at the town library. The library's Board of Trustees asked that the original proposal requesting construction of a restroom be passed off in light of the Town Meeting's other appropriations.

Expenditures approved during the two nights pushed the town's budget to what may be $21,000 over the increases allowed under Proposition 2½, according to initial estimates offered by the Finance Board. A final determination will not be possible until later in the summer when all financial figures are tabulated. If the budget does exceed limits set by Proposition 2½, a Special Town Meeting will be required to vote an over-ride.

Paul Bush

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Star Gazing

Your nose is victim to a poignant bite of icy autumn air. It is 2:00 a.m. on the bank of a northern lake, your body horizontal and mummified in nylon and down. You slide deeper within the synthetic cacoon with hopes of forgiveness from your nose and cheeks. Your feet hit bottom leaving your eyes still exposed. You feel the urge to open them, a sense of guilt weighs heavy on the eyelids. It happens on those nights when nothing separates your senses from the wonder and mystery of the cosmos.

Muscles contract and blood pressure rises as you slowly wake up for the show. Your right eye functions first and easily captures the Big Dipper. The left eye finds the less consistent showing of the spectacular aurora borealis. Your pulse quickens as your head tilts toward the lake absorbing your own private slice of the universe, neatly cast on the amiable surface.

It seems most of the masses usually miss this nightly showing of the universe. Cloud cover is one reason, but more likely we are sealed from the skies with a layer of lumber, fiberglass, and shingles enjoying the warmth of wood via cast iron.

If actually star gazing on a cloudless, smogless night, the majority of our population will still miss most of the show, swallowed by the lights of our own civilization. Get out of town on a clear, cold night (cold air holds less moisture and hence the sharper view) and consider the Big Dipper as we rotate towards the dawn.

We have inherited 88 recognized constellations which fall into eight separate families. An asterism is a distinctive group of stars, but not a recognized constellation. The Big Dipper is a familiar asterism of Ursa Major (The Great Bear), and probably the best skymark for beginning constellation study.

Imagine a straight line through the two stars at the front end of the dipper, and follow it to a bright star known as Polaris, or the North Star. This star sits above our North Pole, and as the earth rotates on its axis all other stars appear to circle around Polaris through the night. You might assume the Big Dipper would occupy the same position at the same time each night, but it does not. Each night it is roughly four minutes ahead of the night before which accounts for the earth's rotation around the sun. These four minute daily changes add up to 24 hours in the course of a year.

In mid-December around 9:00 p.m. the Big Dipper appears to stand on its handle. The same time in mid-March finds it highest in the sky, upside down and emptying its contents. A mid-June evening at 9:00 o'clock finds the handle up and dipper down, exactly opposite from its mid-December position at the same time. In mid-September at 9:00 p.m. it is lowest in the sky, parallel to the horizon and ready to be filled. Legends of native Americans imply that Ursa Major (containing the Big Dipper) is looking for a place to lie down in preparation for winter hibernation, riding low in the early evenings of fall.

So there are myths and legends in the skies, along with the satellites of our society, the non-twinkling planets of our solar system, the twinkling stars of our galaxy and galaxies beyond. And who knows how many eyes are staring back through the silent vacuum? Our sun could be an essential piece in someone elses asterism, or maybe even a constellation, or just another flicker in the cosmos.

Robert Streeter

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

April 24, 1984

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Ted Lewis with Slm. Jim Slavas present, Slm. Ken Simos arrived about a half hour late.

The weekly payroll and bill warrant for 4/24 and5/1 were signed.

Discussed how to handle the Highway Surveyor's appointntment after April 29th when Tom's resignation takes effect.

Jim read his report of the investigation of the Highway Department. The Board voted to accept the report and take it under advisement. Jim pointed out that this report is not out to hurt anyone, it is just to show weaknesses in the present system. Fiscal management weaknesses are well documented. Equipment maintenance so far is not.

Ken made a motion to have Jim and Rita take this report to Town Counsel for his recommendation and advice.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

May 8, 1984

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Ted Lewis with the full Board present.

New member Micheal Idoine was welcomed to the Board.

Discussed briefly the situation at the town Garage.

Ted was nominated and voted unanimously Chairman. Harry Williston was appointed Clerk to the Board.

Discussed the Highway Department. Presently there are three men working. Bradley Merchant, Ronald Grogan and Merle Powling. Ronald and Merle were told that they will be employed until June 30th. After that it will be up to the new Road Boss/Highway Surveyor.

Discussed the work schedule. The men are cleaning up around the garage, scraping roads and patching roads.

Bradley Merchant will be in charge until a new Road Boss is appointed.

Jim will continue to be the Boards Representative to the Shared Administrative Assistant Program.

Ted and Jim filled Mike in on some of the duties of the office of Selectmen.

Received notice from the Boston and Maine Corp. that they will be spraying the balast area of their tracks between June 18th and July 23rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Williston, Clerk

Swift River Preschool Update

The Swift River Pre-school will continue at its present location. After much discussion it was decided to keep the program at the building that is known to most of us as the Center School. Many parents at the School Committee Meeting agreed to raise $1,540.00 to complete the budget.

Several parents met and brainstormed to come up with ideas to raise the needed money. We decided to use the New Salem and Wendell Old Home Days as our fundraisers. We will be selling crafts at the New Salem Old Home Day Auction (July21) and we will be doing face painting, selling balloons and having haircuts by Lin Diemand at Wendell Old Home Day (August 11). We will also be happy to accept any donations to help us along. Please call Janet Ducharme at 4-3109 for making a donation or if you have any ideas or energy call Kathy Woodward at 4-3630 or Pam Lavoie at 4-6400. The next meeting is on June 28, 7:30 pm at the home of Kathy Woodward.

Wendell Free Library

Fill your summer days with books. Explore forests, ponds, cities, oceans or deserts; meet more life. Get tips on making your garden more productive. Find out how to fix that broken window. Enjoy a good novel or a short story. Try a new recipe. There is a summer reading program: Use it as an incentive to read more during school vacation. Make the library a part of your summer. Come and see what is here for you.

The library will sponsor its sixth Annual Summer Film Festival beginning in July. The dates and times will be posted in the near future. The films are sure to be good and we hope to see you here. There also will be films for children on Olde Home Day.

A special thanks to a real Freind of the Library. Byron Ricketts, over the years has given the library much of his time and it is truly appreciated. Byron has offered to make a shelf to house the big drum the Wendell Historical Society has left in the care of the library,so it can be seen by all. Thank you.

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